

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206091

62

ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206091

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PINS, PINT, MILL, LE

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 6980 AND 6987

1. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SPOKESMAN IF QUERIED ON STATEMENT OR APPEAL BY ONE OR MORE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

2. BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US ON SUBJECT OF STATEMENT AND WE HAVE INFORMED THEM OF OUR PRESENT INTENTION TO PROCEED ALONG THESE LINES, EXPLAINING THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE PUBLIC APPEAL LIKELY HAVE DESIRED EFFECT. BRITISH EMBOFF INFORMED US THAT HE UN-AWARE OF TERMS IN WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT COUCH STATEMENT AND OBSERVED THAT IT DIFFICULT TO CALL ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF SHELLINGS ONLY WHEN OUR CITIZENS INVOLVED.

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PAGE 02 STATE 206091

3. WE INTEND TO HAVE HOUGHTON AND MACK TAKE QUESTION OF SHELLING OF RAS BEIRUT AREA UP WITH APPROPRIATE CHRISTIAN REPRESENTATIVES. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS KIND OF APPROACH OFFERS SOME HOPE OF INTRODUCING ELEMENT OF RESTRAINT INTO SITUATION. KISSINGER

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